

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-11, 13, and 15-17 are presently active in this case, Claims 2, 4-8, 11, 13, and 16-17 are amended, and Claims 1, 12, and 14 are canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,333,857 to Kambe et al. in view of U.S. 2002/0085334 to Figueroa et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,847,936 to Forehand et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,970,362 to Chakravorty; Claims 8, 9 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kambe et al. in view of U.S. 6,323,435 to Strandberg et al. and Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kambe et al. in view of U.S. 6,323,439 to Kambe et al., and Claim 16 was indicated as being allowable if amended to include the subject matter of its base claim and any intervening claims.

First, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Patel for the June 10, 2010 interview at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. During the interview, Applicant explained the claimed invention in detail, and presented arguments that the currently pending claims patentably define over the cited references. Further, Applicant proposed amendments to clarify the patentable features of the invention over the cited references. No agreement was reached, and Examiner Patel reiterated that dependent Claim 16 is already allowed.

Applicant thanks Examiner Patel for the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent Claim 16. In order to expedite issuance of a patent in this case, Claim 16 is now amended to be in independent form, including the subject matter of its base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 12. Thus, Claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims have been either canceled, or amended to depend from allowable Claim 16. Thus, all pending claims are now allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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